

high vinyl polybutadiene elastomer having a vinyl content of greater than fifty percent and comprised of

(a) about 40 to about 80 phr of cis 1,4-polyisoprene natural rubber and

(b) about 20 to about 60 phr of cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber,

(2) about 55 to about 80 phr of reinforcing filler comprised of carbon black and precipitated silica which is comprised of

(a) about 5 to about 40 phr of carbon black having an Iodine value (ASTM D1510) of about 35 to about 85 g/kg and a dibutylphthalate (DBP) value (ASTM D2414) of about 70 to about 130 cm<sup>3</sup>/100g and

(b) about 10 to about 70 phr of precipitated silica having a BET surface area of about 125 to about 200 m<sup>2</sup>/g; wherein the weight ratio of silica to carbon black is in a range of about 0.3/1 to about 3/1 and wherein said rubber composition is exclusive of carbon blacks having an Iodine value greater than 85 g/kg, and

(3) a coupling agent having a moiety reactive with silanol groups on said silica and another moiety interactive with said elastomers, and

(B) wherein the rubber composition of said circumferential rubber tread, other than said rubber composition of said lug and groove configuration of said tire sidewall, is comprised of, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr):

(1) at least one diene based elastomer selected from polymers of isoprene and 1,3-butadiene and their mixtures and copolymers of isoprene, 1,3-butadiene and their mixtures with styrene,

(2) about 30 to about 95, alternately about 40 to about 75, phr of carbon black having Iodine value in a range of about 100 to about 145 g/kg and a DBD value of about 110 to about 145 cm<sup>3</sup>/100g;

sub  
B (c)

wherein said tread rubber composition is exclusive of silica and coupling agent, and  
wherein said tread rubber composition is exclusive of carbon black reinforcement having  
an Iodine value of about 35 to about 85 g/kg and a dibutylphthalate (DBP value of about 70 to  
about 130 cm<sup>3</sup>/100g.

---